



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SMITHVILLE WOMAN SENTENCED FOR TRANSPORTING STOLEN PROPERTY IN \$270,000 CHECK FRAUD

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Smithville, Mo., woman was sentenced in federal court today for illegally issuing nearly \$270,000 worth of checks drawn upon an Illinois bank, then depositing those checks into her personal bank account.

Patricia Lee Hubbard, 47, of Smithville, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to one year and six months in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Hubbard** to pay \$269,212 in restitution.

On Aug. 11, 2003, **Hubbard** pleaded guilty to interstate transportation of stolen property. **Hubbard** admitted that, while working as a controller for Grant Thornton, LLC, between July 1995 and May 1998, she unlawfully and without authorization issued checks drawn upon a bank account in Chicago, Ill. These checks were then deposited by **Hubbard** into her personal account at Platte Valley Bank. As a result, Graves explained, money was transferred from Illinois to Missouri.

Hubbard was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City on April 15, 2003.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. Ketchmark and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Matt Wolesky. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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